



BACK TO ACTON Days formal opening ceremonies took place atop a wagon at the Mill and Main corner Saturday at noon. Louis Charlebois, dapper in frock coat and top hat, was master of ceremonies. Pictured with him during the opening are councillor Les Duby, councillor Peter

Marks ("It's better in Acton"), parade co-ordinator Terry Grubbe (seated), Business Improvement Area chairman Henry Stachyra and behind him, Business Association chairman Ed Wood. All the others on the platform were welcome, but uninvited guests.



CROWDS FILLED Mill St. from side to side for the opening of Back to Acton Days. Three separate calithumpian parades had drawn several hundred residents, many in costume, to the spot. This photograph was taken atop the hay wagon

during the speeches and costume judging. Crowds surged throughout the mall all day Friday and Saturday, with outdoor booths and eating places, concerts, contests and sports.

# The Acton Free Press

One Hundred and Fourth Year.—No. 1.

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 1978.

Forty-Four Pages.—Fifteen Cents.

## Three graduates win Ontario scholarships

Three graduates from Acton high school have been given Ontario scholarships. Students must achieve 80 percent or better in grade 13. June Ontario scholars are Laurie Pierce, David Berry and Jocelyn Lamberink.

Laurie heads the list with an average of 87.8. She has been accepted at Nipissing University in North Bay where she was awarded a \$1500 scholarship for academic achievement. Laurie will be moving north at attend university in the fall.

Grade 12 graduates from Acton high school are: Charles Acker, Deborah Andres, Christine Arbie, Diane Baginski, Zonya Baker, Gary Bannon, Kathryn Beaton, Siella Bridgen, Ross Brown, Wendy Brown, Gord Bruce, Paul Brunelle, Jennifer Buscher, Steve Campbell, Sam Chaurani, Susy Chaarant, Kathleen Cheyne, Leslie Collett, Nancy Collett, Sheila Cook, Marilyn De Bruyn, Gord Degen, Jack De Wilde, Norah Doherty, Sandra Dubuc, Janice Ellerby, Jeff Gardiner, Tony Geng, Eunice Gibb, Patti Gordon, Ray Green, Susan Gunther, Don

David Berry has left Acton for British Columbia where he has enrolled in the military college. David had an overall grade 13 average of 90.4. Jocelyn Lamberink made the Ontario Scholarship list with an average of 90 percent. Jocelyn will be a student at the University of Guelph in the fall.

Grade 13 graduates are: Fred Allen, Ford Alton, Kathy Barber, Tania Basic, David Berry, Noel Blake, Cliff Britton, Brad Buchanan, Don Coats, Leslie Collett, Nicki Field, Eunice Gibb, Peter Gillespie, Robert Kilby, Jocelyn Lamberink, Heather McEachern, Mike McGregor, Barry McKerracher, Kolin Muir, Laurie Pierce, Steve Schubert, Martin Trueman, Rick Van Fleet and Deb Wellwood.

Harding, Karen Hinkley, Deborah James, Henry Kroezen, Victor Kurpiewit, John Laitar, Mari Anne Laitar, Russell Lee, Kim Livermore, Jocelyn Macmillan, Scott Malcolm, Peter Marquardt, Karen McDowell, Cynthia McGiloway, Sharon McGregor, Gary Medland, Becky Miller, Steve Mokrytzki, David Morris, Michael Morris, Lisa Near, Debra Neely, Patricia Nesset, Karen Paton, David Pendergast, Judy Pink, Dan Porty, Michellina Pupo, Linea Ramsay, Beth Reynolds, Mike Rippon.

### Morrow says

## Region apt to be aloof on police morale issue

The people who run the police department will likely have little meddling from regional councillors about beefs in the police association's morale, Halton Region chairman Ric Morrow says.

Morrow said Monday: "I think (regional) council would not be very likely to take a step that would be construed as interfering with the (police) commission."

Halton Regional Police Association (HRPA) dropped the bombshell report on an unsuspecting police commission (OPC), which governs all police in the province, for an investigation. The OPC can investigate any policeman, the administration of any police force, the system of policing a municipality and the police needs of any municipality, under the Act.

(Continued on Page 3)

## Back to Acton Days prove huge success

"Super!" is the only word needed to describe this year's Back to Acton Days celebration, according to organizer Ed Wood.

"The whole weekend was unreal. We didn't expect all those people to show up... it was fantastic" said Mr. Wood with both a sigh of relief and renewed excitement.

Mr. Wood felt shopping was good downtown on Friday but the number of people taking part in Saturday's event was unbelievable. He felt the parade helped to bring many of the people downtown and to build the involvement spirit.

Mr. Wood said the police deserved special mention and cooperated with organizers.

There was no set committee with an executive for organizing the days, said Mr. Woods. "Everyone who took part in the activities, all the groups, service clubs, merchants, arts and crafts people, everyone was a part."

Donations to the town hall fund were left up to individual groups and merchants, but they have not been tallied yet. Two per cent of sales was suggested, the same as last year.

Mr. Wood felt this year's celebration was better than last year and next year will be even bigger and better.

Now that all the excitement is over, organizers can sit back and take it easy for at least two weeks which is when

Business Improvement Area president Henry Stachyra, Chamber of Commerce president Jack Kuiken and Business Association president Ed Wood.

Councillor Les Duby, who was also the last mayor of Acton, said how impressed he was by the crowd. He remarked on the community spirit in spite of changes in government. It's Canada Day and it's also Acton Day. We can get together and have a

real good time, he declared.

He urged anyone with a problem to ask one of the councillors.

The Bill Johnson family won first prize for best-dressed family and Rebecca Bates was first for individual costume. They won free admission to the fireworks.

Judges were the three parade marshals, Doris Browne, Pop Main and Fred Wright.

### Toronto men hurt in crash

Two Toronto men were taken to Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital after a single car traffic accident on Mill Street West at the First Lane June 24.

The driver, John Ladouceur, and passenger Stan Sheppard, of Toronto, suffered major injuries in the crash.

The vehicle they were in went through a ditch, struck a fence post and a rock face then went through a clump of trees.

Damage to the vehicle is about \$4,000, according to Halton Regional Police.



CANADA DAY... even Gregory Cox waved a flag! The one and a half year old of R. R. 2, Acton, enjoyed the festivities at Ballinafad on Saturday.

## Canadian Tire stock lost in warehouse fire

A blaze requiring two fire trucks from Acton and one from Georgetown kept some volunteer firefighters on the scene for as long as six hours Friday afternoon.

At 12:55 the Acton volunteer fire department received a call about a fire at the Canadian Tire warehouse on Eastern Avenue beside Frank Heller and Company.

Arriving at the scene moments later approximately 20 firefighters went to work on the warehouse which contained Canadian Tire stock, mainly tires.

Deputy fire chief Bob Hyde explained that Hellers and the warehouse are two independent buildings which were once connected by a walkway. There is now a wall which separates the two.

Hyde said firemen had to work hard to prevent the fire from spreading to the Hellers buildings. "Both the chemicals used by the company and the age of the building would have caused a lot of problems had the fire spread."

Mr. Hyde explained that fire brands were carried in the wind and landed in the eavestrough of York House, now owned by the McGrath's, across from Hellers. Fire-

fighters did not have to go to the home and no damage was done to the McGrath house.

Mr. Hyde commended the Acton firefighters who had to make use of a six inch water hydrant before the pumper from Georgetown arrived to connect to a 12-inch main.

Keeping the fire contained to the warehouse was not the only problem the firefighters had to deal with. Wires catching fire caused the breakers to short circuit and power cuts for up to three hours resulted in the fire area. The fire also caused a short circuit in the C.N.R.

signals at the train tracks. The signals were operating constantly for quite a few hours until they were repaired by the C.N.R. signals branch from Brampton.

One of the biggest problems for the firefighters was the spectators who attended the fire. Children and adults were moving in the way of the firefighters. "People are always in the way at a fire... fires are interesting to watch but they can be dangerous," said Deputy fire chief Hyde.

Mr. Hyde said when he entered Hellers the only

person around was a janitor. Hellers closes on Friday afternoon and so the problem of evacuating was solved.

The shed used to be a C.N.R. freight shed but is now rented to Canadian Tire by C.N.

Some of the spectators took on the job of traffic control and helped to keep the crowds away from under burning wires.

Late Friday afternoon a town grade-all was brought in to rip up the old wood flooring of the shed. The fire continued to burn under the flooring and it was too dangerous to send a man under. The grader was able to rip up the floor so all flames and hot ashes could be extinguished.

Deputy Chief Hyde estimates the damage at \$138,000 and suspects the cause to be children playing with matches or smoking. He does not feel it was lit intentionally.

The black billowing smoke rose high above Acton and has reported to have been seen as far away as Malton.

Saturday morning some of the firefighters returned to the scene to put out a burning beam left smoldering in the wreckage.

### Learns Tuesday he won trip

A. Pludums, the winner of the trip to West Virginia that was sponsored by Tyler Travel as part of Back to Acton Days, contacted Tuesday by the Free Press, was very surprised to find out he had won. He did not know if he would be able to take advantage of the trip, saying it would depend on whether or not he "could get the time."

Tylers had been unable to get in touch with him to tell him the news.



ACTON AND GEORGETOWN Firefighters pour on the water to the fire which gutted the Canadian Tire warehouse on Eastern Avenue last week. Smoke from the blaze was reported

seen as far away as Malton. Fire officials believe children may have started the fire. The fire interrupted the opening afternoon of the Back-to-Acton Days.

(Continued on Page 2)